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Message Text

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51
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /077 W
---------- 020888
R 241000Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4423
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, PINT, SF
SUBJECT: CHANGE IN DECISION: NICO MALAN THEATRE FULLY DESEGREGATED

REF: CAPE TOWN 0201

1. IN STATEMENT ISSUED FEBRUARY 21, CAPE ADMINISTRATOR A.H. VOSLOO SAID PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD RECONSIDERED DECISION TAKEN TWO DAYS EARLIER AND RESOLVED "THAT ALL POPULATION GROUPS WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT RESTRICTION TO THE NICO MALAN THEATRE COMPLEX TO PERFORMANCES ON ALL DAYS OF THE WEEK." EARLIER DECISION, WHICH RESERVED MONDAYS AND SATURDAYS FOR WHITES ONLY, HAD BROUGHT DELUGE OF CRITICISM FROM WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING AFRIKAANS PRESS.

2. WE ARE INFORMED BY SOURCES IN PARLIAMENT THAT INITIAL DECISION STEMMED FROM FAILURE OF VORSTER GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNICATE EXPLICITLY TO VOSLOO AND CAPE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT NICO MALAN SHOULD BE COMPLETELY DESEGREGATED. VOSLOO HAD INTERPRETED SAG'S INTENTION REGARDING NICO MALAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS OWN RACIST PHILOSOPHY. VORSTER, EMBARRASSED AND ANGERED BY VOSLOO'S BLUNDER, PASSED WORD
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VIA MINDEFENSE P.W. BOTHA, WHO IS LEADER OF CAPE NATIONAL

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PARTY, TO CHANGE DECISION AND OPEN NICO MALAN WITHOUT
ANY QUALIFICATIONS.

3. BOYCOTT BY THOSE WHO HAVE OPPOSED WHITES-ONLY POLICY
FOR NICO MALAN APPARENTLY HAS ENDED. SOME COLOREDS, INCLUD-
ING POET ADAM SMALL, ATTENDED FRIDAY'S PERFORMANCE, AND
INITIATOR OF BOYCOTT, SENATOR BIAN BAMFORD, STATED HE
HOPED TO GET TICKETS FOR NEXT PERFORMANCE. AS DEPARTMENT
KNOWS, EMBASSY HAS FULLY SUPPORTED BOYCOTT. NOW THAT IT HAS
ENDED, EMBASSY INTENDS TO ALLOW PERSONNEL TO ATTEND
PERFORMANCES AT NICO MALAN, UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES ANY
REASONS TO CONTRARY.
HURD

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